

Application No. 10/822,281, filed April 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No.: 1119309-0005
Page 2 of 12

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below. Claims canceled below are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (currently amended) A toilet mat comprising matting, the matting comprising
a top layer comprising porous material;
an absorbent layer comprising absorbent material;
a bottom layer comprising impermeable material; and
at least one of the group consisting of:
 - (i) a transition layer between the top layer and the absorbent layer, whereby the top layer is isolated from the absorbent layer; and
 - (ii) a buffer layer between the absorbent layer and the bottom layer, whereby the bottom layer is isolated from the absorbent layer.

~~[disposable, absorbent material, for being placed in proximity to a base of the toilet.]~~

2. (currently amended) The mat according to claim 1, further comprising a cut-away region along one side for abutting the toilet base, wherein the cut-away region comprises an adhesive collar for adhering the periphery of the cut-away region to the toilet base for creating a seal therebetween, and thereby preventing the mat from slipping.

3. (currently amended) The mat according to claim 1, wherein the [absorbent] matting comprises a wetness indicator for exhibiting a detectable indication in response to being contacted with moisture.

4. (original) The mat according to claim 3, wherein the wetness indicator provides the person with an indication of urine spills associated with urinating in a toilet.

5. (original) The mat according to claim 1, wherein the matting comprises indicia for communicating to a user.

Application No. 10/822,281, filed April 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No.: 1119309-0005
Page 3 of 12

6. (original) The mat according to claim 5, wherein the indicia comprise footprint-shaped indicia for encouraging a person to stand on during urination.
7. (original) The mat according to claim 5, wherein the indicia comprise a luminous material for visually enhancing the indicia.
8. (original) The mat according to claim 7, wherein the luminous material comprises a phosphorescent material.
9. (cancelled).
10. (original) The mat according to claim 2, wherein the cut-away region is shaped to conform to a periphery of the toilet to which it abuts.
11. (original) The mat according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the matting is treated with a substance that undergoes a color change upon hydration, the color change forming the detectable indication.
12. (original) The mat according to claim 1, wherein the detectable indication comprises a change in color.
13. (original) The mat according to claim 1, wherein the toilet comprises at least one of the group consisting of a toilet unit, a urinal, and a potty.
14. (original) The mat according to claim 1, wherein the matting comprises a shape complementary to an intended area of coverage.

Application No. 10/822,281, filed April 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No.: 1119309-0005
Page 4 of 12

15. (currently amended) A toilet mat comprising matting, the matting comprising
a top layer comprising porous material;
an absorbent layer comprising absorbent material;
a bottom layer comprising impermeable material;
at least one of the group consisting of:
(i) a transition layer between the top layer and the absorbent layer, whereby the
top layer is isolated from the absorbent layer; and
(ii) a buffer layer between the absorbent layer and the bottom layer, whereby the
bottom layer is isolated from the absorbent layer; and
~~[formed of disposable, absorbent material, the absorbent matting comprising]~~
an indicator for exhibiting a detectable indication of a soiled condition.
16. (currently amended) The mat according to claim 15, wherein the ~~[absorbent]~~ matting
comprises a cut-away region along one side for abutting to a toilet base, the cut-away region
having an adhesive collar for adhering the periphery of the cut-away region to the toilet base for
creating a seal therebetween, and thereby preventing the matting from slipping.
17. (currently amended) A method for maintaining the hygiene of a floor area surrounding a
toilet base, the method comprising the steps of:
(a) placing a ~~[disposable, liquid-absorbent]~~ matting comprising
a top layer comprising porous material;
an absorbent layer comprising absorbent material;
a bottom layer comprising impermeable material;
at least one of the group consisting of:
(i) a transition layer between the top layer and the absorbent layer, whereby the
top layer is isolated from the absorbent layer; and
(ii) a buffer layer between the absorbent layer and the bottom layer, whereby the
bottom layer is isolated from the absorbent layer; and

Application No. 10/822,281, filed April 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No.: 1119309-0005
Page 5 of 12

~~[-having]~~ a wetness indicator, in proximity to the toilet base, wherein the ~~[absorbent]~~ matting absorbs liquid spills and the absorption of liquid activates the wetness indicator;

(b) detecting a liquid spill on the ~~[absorbent]~~ matting by observing the wetness indicator in an activated state; and

(c) replacing the ~~[absorbent]~~ matting with an unused ~~[absorbent]~~ matting after the spill has been detected.

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the wetness indicator, when activated, is visually discernable.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein ~~[visually-discernable comprises]~~ the wetness indicator undergoes a change in color when activated.

20. (original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the change in color comprises a change to a color having an intensity that varies directly with the volume of liquid contacting the matting.

21. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the wetness indicator, when activated, comprises an olfactory indication.

22. (currently amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of providing indicia on the ~~[disposable-liquid-absorbent]~~ matting.

23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the indicia comprise footprint-shaped indicia ~~[on the disposable, liquid-absorbent matting]~~.

24. (original) The method according to claim 22, wherein standing on the indicia during urination facilitates use of the toilet.

Application No. 10/822,281, filed April 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No.: 1119309-0005
Page 6 of 12

25. (previously amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein the footprint-shaped indicia comprise a visually enhanced effect for encouraging the user to stand on the footprint-shaped indicia.
26. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the visually enhanced effect comprises a fluorescent material.
27. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the visually enhanced effect comprises a phosphorescent material.
28. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the toilet comprises at least one of the group consisting of a toilet unit, a urinal, and a potty.
29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the ~~liquid-absorbent~~ matting comprises a shape complementary to the intended area of coverage.
30. (new) The mat according to claim 1, wherein the matting comprises disposable material.
31. (new) The mat according to claim 15, wherein the matting comprises disposable material.
32. (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein the matting comprises disposable material.